



Benelux Meteor

Volume 22, Number 19

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Quick Read

In General

Military ball planned

The United States Army Warrant Officers Corps Ball is Nov. 6, starting 6 p.m., at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg. RSVP by Oct. 29. Info: Victor McLaughlin, DSN 370-5427, or CW5 Ronald Peterman, DSN 379-6444, or email g4mrdclix@hq.c5.army.mil.

Belgium

Gates change

Gate #14 at Chièvres Air Base is closed to all traffic. Gate #16, on Route d'Ath between the traffic circle and Gate #1, is for entrance only by commercial vehicles, farmers and government utility vehicles. All other vehicles enter at Gate #1, by the PX and commissary. All vehicles exit through Gate #1. Info: PMO, 80th ASG, DSN 361-5301/5162.

Fuel pumps close

Chièvres Air Base fuel facility is closed for renovations. Customers can use the IHSC/SHAPE fuel station as the primary way to refuel. Customers can also refuel at any Belgian "TOTAL" station using their fuel card. Info: for fuel card, Colette Vanecken-rode, DOL Hangar 3, Chièvres Air Base, DSN 361-5993; for coordination or emergencies, Daniel Godefroid, DSN 361-5142; for IHS fuel pumps, TMP Dispatch Office, DSN 423-4532.

Celebrate autumn

NSA Autumn Fest, is Oct. 29, 3:30-6 p.m., at CYS. Enjoy games, face painting, arts, crafts, trick or treating. An all-ages dance is 6-10 p.m., at Three Star Lounge. Volunteers for all areas and pre-wrapped candy donations are needed, donation boxes located at NSA mailroom, chapel and Building #4 lobby. Info: 02 717-9639.

Netherlands and Germany

Hispanic banquet scheduled

The Hispanic Heritage Banquet is Oct. 23, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Euro 25 cost includes a buffet dinner, door prizes and live music. Dress is semi-formal. Photos are available and a cash bar cocktail hour begins at 7 p.m. Info for tickets and location: JFC HQ Brunssum, SSG Odell Robinson 045 563-3305 or Kathryn Thomas 045 526-3008; Schinnen, SFC Williams 046 443-7534, Monique Dismuke 046 443-7494, Ray Landrau 046 443-7207; HQ CECE, Rosie VanDuyne 045 567-7105; Geilenkirchen, TSgt Rene Boyd 49 2451 63-2219, Maj. Sheila Wilhite 49 2451 63-3084; Maastricht, SSG Jasper Ancrum 043 328-4605.

Hispanic snapshots

Presenting a sample of stories from the U.S. military Hispanic culture in the Benelux countries

Shaking off Sandinistas

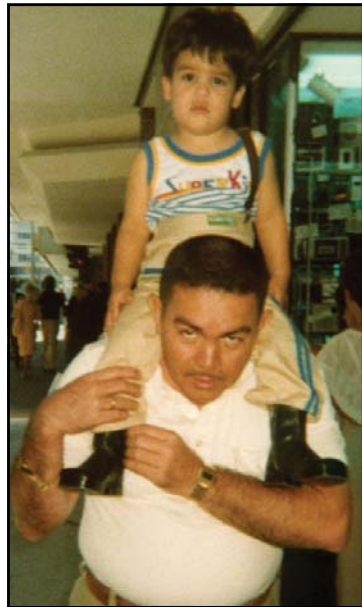
By Rick Haverinen

"There was a revolution in Nicaragua July 29, 1979, and the Sandinistas took over the government," said Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Solis, U.S. Army NATO. "My grandparents had their own hardware business and it did well. They feared that with this new government, all their hard work and personal endeavors would just be taken from them. So between 1980-1982 my grandparents began to emigrate the entire family to the United States. My uncle and his wife came to the U.S. first. About a year later, my great-grandmother, my sister, and I emigrated next."

Solis was 4 years old at the time. He is now 27.

"Of course we just moved into the home with my uncle in Miami," Solis said. "Shortly after that, our mother came to join us. And the final step was my grandparents."

Solis said he doesn't remember noticing much difference in the change from Nicaragua to Miami because the family had previously known many people there from Nicaragua.



Marvin Solis was about 4 when his grandfather, Joaquin Aviles, gave him a ride in Managua, Nicaragua.

"When I began kindergarten, I think that was the biggest culture shock, because I didn't know English," Solis said. "I don't even know how I learned English — I guess from listening to other chil-



PHOTO: Dorothy Nevins

Shannon Hunt, 6, swirls the hem of her lace-trimmed dress as she dances with Daniel Marquez, 9, at the Three Star Lounge at NATO Support Activity in Brussels Oct. 9. Even the ar-

work on the disc jockey's station wants to participate. Hispanic Heritage Month ran Sept. 15-Oct. 15 and gave residents of the Benelux American military communities a chance to share culture.

dren interact and listening to the teacher.

"I think cartoons are universal. I do remember watching the cartoons in English, but it didn't seem to bother me. I enjoyed them. I think that it also helped me to learn English. My sister, who is three years older than me, picked up English before I did. And because she was older than I was, she liked to listen to the radio and she learned to be a cool kid before I knew what cool was. Eventually my sister and I only spoke English and my grandparents wanted to know what it was we were talking about," Solis said, "and it got to a point where I almost lost my Spanish."

"I know that there are times now I've been around other Hispanics and I may not speak Spanish initially, and I know that my English doesn't carry an accent either," Solis said, "so they might be under the impression that I don't know how to speak the language. And I've heard some derogatory comments directed towards me. Maybe things like, 'He must think he's too good,' or 'Sell-out,' type of comments. And when I hear

things like that, it kind of hurts me. I will respond to them and put people on notice that I understood what they said, and I didn't appreciate it. I think it's okay to be proud of your heritage, but it doesn't mean that you have to wear it on your sleeve."

Solis became interested in the military at 13 because of a cousin who wore his Class A JROTC uniform at school.

"I thought it was just the coolest thing in the world," Solis said, "and of course when I got to high school, I signed up for JROTC. One of my instructors, Granville Scott, was very much like a father figure to me. So I wanted to model myself after him. And another reason was when I was a senior in high school, I had a son myself. So I saw the Army as a way of educating myself, and at the same time being able to provide for my son."

Solis, a software analyst, has been in the Army nine years.

"I think it's gone very well,"

Solis said. "I was selected for sgt. 1st class when I had seven years of service and I pinned the rank on at eight years. I think I've been able to get some education. I think that I have been exposed to different parts of the world. I think I've been exposed to professionalism. I enjoy the Army. I even recruited for a while in Fort Lauderdale. I don't have a problem telling the Army story and telling other people that this is a good thing."

Solis said he often wonders how his life might have gone if his family had not moved from Nicaragua to the U.S.

"I know I'd be a totally different person," Solis said. "I think that even physically I would be a different person. Growing up in the United States allowed me opportunities that didn't exist in Nicaragua. So I do think about that. I don't know if I would have been a better man or worse. I thank God for America. God bless her."

See SNAPSHOTS, Page 8.



Solis

Nowowiejski Notes



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, 80th ASG Commander

I'm going to follow the theme of contests in this edition of notes. We are in the late stages of an election contest, the ending stages of the annual major league baseball contest, and toward the middle stages of the fall football contests. Did you ever wonder if you are part of a contest yourself? You are: you are involved in a global war on terror and a contest for the values that your nation holds dear.

Sometimes here in the Benelux, you might feel isolated from the global war on terror. After all, you are not in Iraq or Afghanistan. But **you are on the front lines of the global war on terror.** Let me explain why.

First, **you are an ambassador of the United States** in your host country. We are engaged in this contest for the future of the world with global partners, and the example that you bring in your person to everything you do in your host country represents our national values. You are a personal representative of our values of individual liberty, democracy, and a market based economy. How your hosts judge the nation as it pursues its international objectives begins with your personal example of national values. You are the beginning point of having allies.

Second, **you are a watchperson** in our collective efforts to protect ourselves. The best single defense we have against the terrorists who do live and work around you is the alertness you display to suspicious persons, activities

or objects. We have had incidents where threats were reduced because someone was watching. We have had people probe our defenses, so what you see and report does matter, and is the first line of defense.

Third, **we support a vital NATO mission** which bears retelling. Last week, a nation that has been oppressed for decades successfully voted for president after registering ten million voters in the face of personal threat. The success of the election in Afghanistan was accomplished under NATO leadership. The alliance also continues toward execution of its training mission for Iraqi forces, and thus is active in both countries where the conflict is most real. We support the NATO headquarters leading these efforts from within the 80th ASG.

Some of you may not realize that within our ranks we have several members deployed in the global war on terror. NATO staff members are increasingly deployed. In addition, the 80th ASG has Soldiers in both Afghanistan and Iraq with families waiting here who need our support. Our steps in **deploying military members and supporting their families** at home here in the Benelux are real and do matter.

So you see that in several concrete and practical ways we are active on the front lines of our nations efforts in GWOT. Be active, excellent and proud in what you do. Sharpen the sword.

General recommends fall driving safety

4 October 2004

Bell Sends #1-05
October Safety

Here in Europe, summer is over and winter will be here before we know it. Our Winter Safety Campaign is now underway. As part of this campaign, I directed your attention toward local traffic hazards and seasonal risks. Below are some hazards unique to the month of October.

The fall harvest season is here. This means we can expect to encounter a lot of farm equipment on the road. When driving in areas where farming is common, keep the following in mind:

- Harvest vehicles are large and slow, and the temptation to pass them under less than ideal conditions is great. Following these vehicles too closely can limit your field of vision. When attempting to pass a large har-

vest vehicle, keep your distance so that you can see oncoming traffic, and be patient. Pass only when you have a clear view and enough time to do so safely.

- Harvest time means that we can expect more dirt on the road than usual. Dirt and mud make the road slippery and can cover windshields and headlights. To help avoid accidents when driving under these conditions, slow down and increase your following distance. Be especially careful on curves and at intersections. Ensure your car has enough windshield-washer fluid, and periodically clean your headlights to remove dirt and grime.



Gen. B. B. Bell

The harvest season is also a time for harvest festivals. If you plan to participate in local fests, enjoy yourself, but be careful.

Remember that alcohol impairs your judgment, coordination, and ability to react quickly. Never get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol. Use public transportation or arrange for a designated driver to get you home safely.

As winter approaches in Europe, the days seem to get shorter, and soon we will be commuting in the dark. Now is the time to have our vehicle lights checked. Free Vehicle Lighting Campaign inspections may be available at AAFES garages or garages in the host-nation community. Take advantage of this

opportunity now to prepare for those dark mornings and evenings.

For those not deployed, enjoy the great fall weather and be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities our beautiful host nations have to offer. Get out and mingle with some of the most delightful people in the world. As you recharge yourself and prepare for winter, keep up the good work in preventing injuries and fatalities. I am extremely proud of you, and I want you to take care of yourselves. Continue to be safe as we execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere!

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

New fiscal year already marred by fatality

Bell ends #2-05
15 October 2004

SAFETY ALERT
Soldier Killed in Car Crash
First Car Death of FY 05

1. Last Saturday one of our Soldiers was killed in a car crash. The driver of the car in which the Soldier was riding lost control on a curve, and the vehicle broadsided a tree and was sheared in half. Even though the details of the crash are not known, there are things we do know that can prevent senseless tragedies such as this.

2. Over the last 12 months we have lost eight USAREUR Soldiers to off-duty vehicle crashes. Most of these crashes could have been prevented if a leader had effectively intervened, or if the Soldier had met "Under the Oak Tree" beforehand with his or her first-line supervisor.

3. At our Commanders Safety Council meeting last week, we laid out some straightforward directions for leaders concerning Under the Oak Tree contracts. These contracts simply cannot be optional. Leaders must not allow Soldiers to go on pass or leave without first conducting an

honest "Under the Oak Tree" meeting to discuss the Soldier's plans. This includes agreeing to alternatives to driving or riding with someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

4. Soldiers, however, are ultimately responsible for their own safety. As we begin a new fiscal year, I ask Soldiers to review basic safety rules and renew their commitment to act responsibly, both on and off duty. In addition, Soldiers should—

- Be honest and open with their leaders about their off-duty plans when meeting Under the Oak Tree.
- Not take chances behind the wheel or let others do so. Soldiers are responsible for their own safety, regardless of who is driving.
- Not drive after drinking or let others drive after drinking. Use another means to get home.
- Learn defensive-driving techniques and use them.
- Buckle up when traveling in vehicles, whether riding in the front or back seat.
- Take care of themselves and others, and intervene if necessary to prevent someone from getting hurt.

5. Most importantly, each of us must continue to make

sound off-duty risk management decisions. This process should be second nature in all we do. I am absolutely convinced that at least one of you reading this is alive today because of this process. Leaders and Soldiers are making good risk-management decisions about things they never considered before. It is easy to count fatalities; it is much more difficult—but much more important—to count the lives we have saved by simply taking time to consider the risks involved in our plans and modifying our activities accordingly.

6. Ensure that this safety alert is given widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. I want every Soldier to read this message and make a personal commitment to No Loss of Life by acting responsibly in FY 05. Let us take care of each other as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

ID cards for CONUS-based civilian retirees allow access to military, MWR facilities

Dept. of the Army has advised that retired CONUS-based APF and NAF Army civilians and family members can receive civilian ID cards allowing them access to military and MWR facilities.

The Military Personnel Center is the is-

suing office within the National Capital Center. The Office of the Adjutant General, Military Personnel Division, 5815 20th Street, Suite 217, Fort Belvoir, Va., will provide this service for retired employees and their families.

DA civilians must complete DD Form 1172 (Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card DEERS Enrollment) and show supporting documentation for family members, such as birth certificate or marriage license. Family members eligible

for the card include: spouses, unmarried dependents under age 22, stepchildren or foster children that live with the DA civilian or retiree and unmarried dependent children, regardless of age, who have mental or physical disabilities that existed before age 23.

Learn to be safe in foreign countries

By Rik Bertrand

"Traveling to and living in foreign countries can be a rich and rewarding experience. U.S. military personnel, Dept. of Defense civilian employees and family members are afforded this opportunity in ways many Americans can only dream about. Awareness concerning the unique threats in areas of the U.S. European Command can help prevent you and your family from becoming victims." The above statement by Gen James L. Jamerson was made in USEUCOM PAM 25-1 dated in January 1996 five years prior to 9/11. This pamphlet, named "Coping with Violence abroad" is a guide to all U.S. personnel stationed overseas. Its importance has magnified a hundred fold over the last five years.

Awareness, that's the main word in the above paragraph that everyone should remember. Awareness of your surroundings, the people, the places, the vehicles, the package lying next to that building that maybe should not be there. The safety, security and well-being of all personnel, be they U.S. or host nation, continues to be the top priority of the 80th ASG commander and our service components will continue to allocate considerable resources to maintain an appropriate security posture. Coordination with host-nation law enforcement and security agencies is on-going and extensive. But remember, "Force Protection Begins With You."

Awareness, sometimes we forget, we lose sight, we become complacent in our everyday lives. I am here to say to all "Wake Up". We all have to be reminded every once in a while that we are not alone. Somewhere out there, someone is watching, they may not be watching you, or your home or your place of work, but they're watching. It's our job to catch them watching. It's our duty to report all suspicious activity. If you see someone out of place, standing on

the street outside the gates or on your residence street, if you see a vehicle parked with people inside that just don't look right, REPORT IT.

To reduce terrorism and crime we must all help our military and host-nation security forces. By improving our personal awareness and using common sense practices, we can help prevent criminal and terrorist attacks. Without opportune targets, would-be perpetrators turn their attention elsewhere. As you lessen your personal vulnerabilities, you reduce the likelihood that you will become a victim.

The following are some safety tips from USEUCOM PAM 25-1 that all family, service members and employees should remember:

- o Don't discuss personal matters such as travel plans, your job, or your family with people you don't know.

- o Dress and behave conservatively. Avoid styles that don't fit in the local area and typically American items such as western boots and hats, or baseball caps - try to blend in.
- o Don't wear clothing with slogans or symbols that may be offensive.

your wallet or purse.

- o Avoid going out alone, especially at night.
- o Avoid secluded areas, poorly lit streets and narrow alleys.
- o Stay away from known "trouble spots," demonstrations, and political rallies.
- o In your business contacts with others, remember, "Deals too good to be true," usually are.
- o Excessive consumption of alcohol is often the first step to becoming the victim of a crime or serious accident. Alcohol lowers your awareness, rational decision-making process, and physical coordination. Criminals may target intoxicated people because of these reasons. Most importantly, those consuming alcohol simply lose their ability to perceive and appreciate potential dangers. If you drink, do so in moderation, especially when away from your residence. Staying sober may help you stay healthy and alive.

Take time and P.A.U.S.E for Force Protection. Remember: Be Prepared, Stay Alert, Be Unpredictable, be Secure and Exercise caution.

Your Force Protection and Security Officers of 80th ASG are always glad to help when planning trips, tours and vacations and the State Department Website: www.state.gov can give you up-to-date information on the country you are traveling to.

Bertrand is 80th ASG's Anti-Terrorism Officer.



Broderbund

- o Learn about the area, the culture, local customs, history of criminal activity and local laws.

- o Become familiar with the environment. You must know what is normal to be able to detect what is unusual.

- o Always have local coins or calling cards for pay phones. Know how to use the local phone system and the number for emergencies.

- o Keep a low profile. Don't advertise military affiliation.

Remember, different cultures have different values and beliefs. When in doubt, be conservative.

- o Be polite and low key. Avoid loud conversations and arguments.

- o Don't flash large sums of money.

- o Never carry documents, credit cards, or large sums of money that you don't need to have on your person. For example, there is generally no reason to have your state-side driver's license or American department store credit cards in

Travel office to charge fees for bookings

HEIDELBERG, Germany – As a result of changes in the commercial airline industry, beginning Oct 1, 2004, the Commercial Travel Office (CTO) has started charging a transaction fee for each official and leisure travel booking.

Between Sept. 2004 and Jan. 2005, most airlines operating in Europe are eliminating commissions. This includes the major U.S. flagged carriers that comprise the majority of the CTO business.

Without commissions from the airlines as a source of revenue, the current CTO, SatoTravel, will receive little to no compensation for the services they provide to the government. To ensure these services

continue, SatoTravel will begin charging a transaction fee for each ticket that it books through their agents. The transaction fee for booking official and leisure airline tickets is projected to be \$14-15 per ticket.

The fees will apply to airline reservations for both official and leisure travel and are non-refundable. If the ticket is canceled, the fee will not be returned. The fees do not apply to rental car, train, ferry and hotel bookings.

The transaction fee is charged for every traveler for each complete trip. A complete trip is considered a departure, intermediate stops, and a return. If making one complete trip requires the issuance of two separate

tickets for the same traveler, only one fee will be charged. In addition, if the change or modification requires the cancellation and reissuing of the ticket, an additional fee will be charged. If the change or modification does not require the cancellation and reissuing of the ticket, no additional fee will be charged.

If the traveler chooses to book a leisure flight in conjunction with an official flight, the Government will be charged a transaction fee for the official portion of the flight, and the traveler will be charged a separate transaction fee for the leisure portion.

In the past, travel agencies did not charge customers for providing travel services.

Airlines paid the travel agent a commission for selling and booking tickets on their respective flights.

In the United States, airlines ended the practice of paying commissions in the late 1990's, forcing travel agencies to begin charging customers fees for travel services. All U.S. Government travel contracts are based on the CTO charging a transaction fee. Unlike those in the U.S., overseas airlines continued to pay commissions for international travel until recently. SatoTravel, the agent contracted by the Government for travel services in Europe, continued to operate without imposing transaction fees because of this unique overseas situation.

Army asks civilians about early retirement, voluntary separation

Heidelberg, Germany — The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency – Europe conducted a survey of its workforce to determine the number of employees that would be interested in taking an early retirement (VERA) and/or the voluntary separation incentive (VSIP). Both VERA and VSIP are management tools designed to minimize the impact of involuntary separations with the IMA-E Region. The purpose for the survey was to ascertain the number of employees that would be interested in participating in the programs. These incentives will be used very sparingly and only in situations whereby the impact of downsizing, restructuring, and/or reduction-in-force would be minimized through the utilization of these tools.

The most common misconception regarding the two incentives is the belief that if you receive the VERA, you will automatically be entitled to VSIP. IMA-E does not view VSIP as an automatic entitlement for employees. Approvals of VSIP applications will be contingent upon management's ability to identify how civilian reductions can be minimized and cost savings achieved through the use of the VSIP authority. VERA will be implemented for reasons similar to those identified under VSIP; however, unlike VSIP the VERA will be offered prior to the initiation of any reduction-in-force. An important fact to know is that not all request received in response to the VERA

open window will be approved. IMA-E management officials reserve the right to disapprove VERA request based on the needs of the organization.

Employees that are approved for VERA and/or VSIP must meet certain eligibility criteria for early separation and to receive monetary compensation. Employees, regardless of age, who have 25 years of service or those at age 50 with 20 years of service, may apply for VERA during the designated "open-window" period. The "open-window" period for which applications may be submitted will be determined by the IMA-E Region Director.

Any employee, except reemployed annuitants, regardless of retirement eligibility may apply for VSIP and receive up to \$25,000. These are general requirements for VERA and VSIP eligibility. Visit the Department of Defense National Personnel System website at http://www.cpms.osd.mil/care/index_tools.html for more details about VERA and VSIP.

The initial canvassing of the workforce was to determine a projected number of possible participants for the above referenced programs. In the event the need would arise to offer these incentives, the IMA-E workforce would once again be canvassed to determine the number of interested employees by position title, series, grade, organization and seniority. This subsequent canvassing of the

workforce would be to render an approval decision pertaining to the granting of VERA and/or VSIP.

Army has automated suggestion program

Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians may now go online to the Army Suggestion Program, at <https://armysuggestions.army.mil> to submit their "Good Ideas." Logging on requires an Army Knowledge On line (AKO) user name and password. This automated format replaces any hard copy documentation that has been used in the past. It's the new, and only way to submit suggestions as of Aug. 1.

The new program still seeks ideas that improve work methods, materials, processes, equipment, logistics, utilities or tools that will benefit the Army. Approved and implemented suggestions that save the Army money are often eligible for a cash award. The more money saved, the larger the potential award. The suggestion must present a problem or situation, propose a solution and state the benefit to the government.

♦ The Netherlands Heraut ♦

Schinnen liberated 60 years ago

By Laurri Garcia

Members of the 254th Base Support Bn. and citizens of Schinnen joined Mayor Franz Beckers and Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th BSB commander, in the Schinnen town square Oct. 3 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the town's liberation.

The six villages that form the municipality of Schinnen were liberated Sept. 18, 1944 from four years of Nazi occupation by Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Div., known as "Hell on Wheels."

Guests, including Maj. Gen. Eldon A. Bargwell, Senior U.S. Military Representative to the Netherlands, listened as Beckers delivered the opening remarks recounting his own experiences during the historic events of six decades ago.

"I was a child, three and a half years old," Beckers told the audience. "With my parents and little brothers, we lived in the cellar of our residence in Mheer, near the Belgian border. Early on the morning of Sept. 12, 1944, an Ameri-

can Soldier rang the doorbell and said, "Here we are, the first Americans."

The day's commemorative events included a parade through town showcasing vintage military jeeps and vehicles, as well as members of the local schutterij (shooters club) who donned their traditional uniforms and marched through the village to join the festivities in the town square.

Musical accompaniment was provided by the SHAPE International Band and a hauntingly beautiful rendition of TAPS played from the balcony of city hall as on-lookers paid respects to those who paid the ultimate price for their freedom.

"We know very well that for us here in Schinnen, in Limburg Province, there wouldn't be freedom

without D-Day, without the march through France and Belgium, and without the Battle of the Bulge," Beckers said. "Without the inter-

vention of the Allies between June 1944 and May 1945, our world in Western Europe would be a very different place. Therefore is it good

to be here 60 years later. We are grateful. Thank you."

Garcia is the 254th BSB public affairs officer



Photo: Laurri Garcia

Local clubs and civic groups team up Oct. 3 for the colorful parade celebrating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Schinnen, the Netherlands, from four years of Nazi occupation.

Series of ceremonies honor World War II soldiers



PHOTOS: James McCall

Left to right, Pfc. Luis Rivera, Staff Sgt. Harold Anderson, Staff Sgt. Regina Robinson and Pfc. Kendall Johnson, 254th Base Support Bn., represent the U.S. military at a ceremony in the Netherlands.

By Capt. John Lorenzen

September marked the 60th anniversary of Operation Market Garden. This joint operation involved American and British airborne units along with Allied ground forces. The airborne attack was called Operation Market; the corollary ground attack, Operation Garden. The 101st Infantry Division (Airborne) dropped around the

Eindhoven area while the 82nd Infantry Division (Airborne) parachuted into the Nijmegen area.

Complete surprise was achieved by the airdrop on Sept. 17, 1944, but the Germans were not as disorganized as had been hoped. While many villages were liberated, unexpectedly strong resistance limited the gains to a 50-mile salient into the

Netherlands—far short of the objective of securing a workable bridgehead across the Rhine.

Commemorative events in the Eindhoven and Nijmegen areas lasted September 14-20. The 254th BSB was involved in many of the events providing force protection, color guard, chaplain, and logistical support. Key events included the Eindhoven Torchlight Parade commemorating the liberation of that city by the 101st, the renaming of the bridge in Grave (Nijmegen area) to honor Lt. John Thompson of the 82nd whose men captured this key bridge over the Maas, and a reenactment by 82nd veterans of the heroic crossing of the Waal River. Veterans from both airborne divisions were present at their respective division's events and fascinated those present with their war stories.

In the local area, a ceremony honoring the 2nd Armor Division (nicknamed "Hell on Wheels") was held in Geleen Sept. 18. This famous division, commanded by Gen. George C. Patton, fought German forces in the area in September 1944. A monument honoring the division was unveiled with the names of those killed in Geleen engraved into the stone. Other local events were held in Kerkrade and Maastricht to honor the 30th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Old Hickory" in honor of President Andrew



Pfc. Joe Mann threw himself on a German grenade Sept. 19, 1944, in the village Best, saving the lives of his comrades. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Jackson who once commanded the division).

The gratitude of the Dutch people is literally etched in stone in monuments throughout the Netherlands. You only have to visit the numerous monuments and museums to recognize their continued gratitude. Many local associations honor the various military units that fought in their areas by adopting the slogan, "Remember September," and they did so in grand fashion.

Lorenzen works for the 254th BSB Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Fall Cleanup to soon polish 254th Base Support Bn. from top to bottom

The 254th Base Support Battalion annual Fall Clean-Up is Oct. 25-29. Tenant units and occupants of government leased quarters will participate. This time will provide everyone an opportunity to remove old vegetation, cartons, wood, unwanted items, and conduct a general site clean up to improve and maintain area beautification.

Supervisors are encouraged to release personnel residing in government leased quarters Oct. 25, noon- 5 p.m., in support Fall Clean-Up 2004. Offices and storage areas of the various units and directorates are to follow their established clean-up

plans. Directorate of Public Works (DPW) will provide dumpsters and manpower to units or directorates requesting these services. The Director of Logistics (DOL) is prepared to receive unwanted property book items found off post.

In support of the cleanup, the SORT Center will be open for sorted trash Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Hazardous waste can be taken to Building #33 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Individuals preferring to utilize their local recycling center must contact their local town hall or municipality for specific information regarding

hours of operation and disposal. If you live in private leased quarters need a temporary issue of garden tools, please contact the Self Help Store located behind Building #18, Schinnen. Contact the Self Help Store during this week for more information. Dial DSN 360-7229 or commercial 046 4437229.

Units and directorates are to coordinate all Fall Clean-up requirements with the DPW, NCOIC, Master Sgt. Kosaka at DSN 360-7345, commercial 046 4437345 or Wim Wouters at DSN 360-7340 or commercial 046 443-7340.

On the road with Home Town News

Story and photos by Rick Haverinen

It's a job done by the numbers.

"First year, 2001, we had approximately 11,000," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brady McCarron. "In 2002 we had approximately 13,000. Last year we had about 16,000. This year, unfortunately, we haven't even hit 10,000."

"I must have talked with 15,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Malec.

The ledger book on a table said they were on 2,037, but that was for the whole tour. They actually got 68 on Oct. 8 and another 35 the next day, for a total of 103 for their trip to Belgium.

What we're counting here is "Holiday Greetings," announcements by U.S. service members recorded on videotape by Army and Air Force Hometown News Service and widely distributed for commercial TV stations to broadcast in the service members' home towns.

Hometown News Service, which is based in San Antonio, Texas, has up to four crews scouring the globe at any one time to record similar messages, and you might have already seen them on TV stations in your area.

The crew that passed through Belgium had three members, McCarron, Malec, and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Johnnie Hernandez, who not only is stationed in San Antonio, but it's also where he grew up.

"I know where all the good places to eat are," Hernandez said. "I know all the shortcuts. I never get lost. When there's



Hernandez



Tech Sgt. Johnnie Hernandez, left, provides Staff Sgt. Jimmy Scoggins, 80th ASG Provost Marshal Office, with a microphone to tape his holiday greeting. Scoggins said hello to his parents, brothers and sisters in Dallas.

somebody new to the area, I can take them around."

McCarron and Malec are military broadcasters but Hernandez is actually the communications wizard for Home Town News. If something breaks, he can fix it.

The job is not one of the most glamorous in the broadcasting profession. The crews are on the road for six to eight weeks, and when touring they typically work a six-day week of 10-12 hour days.

"Depending on what the schedules look like, we'll shoot until 6-7 o'clock at night and we'll have to drive two hours to our next location," Malec said, "or let's say you're in Iraq, you live with the troops and sometimes that means not getting very much sleep. So we do what we can do."

On this particular day, McCarron operated the video camera and directed the military members recording the messages, Hernandez helped the greeters with a clip-on microphone and held the information card up for McCarron to slate his shots. Malec stayed around the reception area and helped people fill out the paperwork.

The process is a bit like an assembly line. The crews repeat the same sequence over and over, sometimes hundreds of times in one day.

"We had this whole National Guard unit from Pennsylvania, and we probably recorded 400-500 Soldiers, so no matter whether they're National Guard or Reserves, we will support them," Malec said, "because most TV stations back there in their home towns will give these frequent airings, especially if they're called up to deploy overseas. It's good stuff."

When the crews get back to San Antonio, they begin editing and mailing out the greetings to TV stations across the country, in Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands or anywhere stations subscribe to the free service.

With all the repetition, thousands of miles, and long hours, you might wonder how these crews stay motivated.

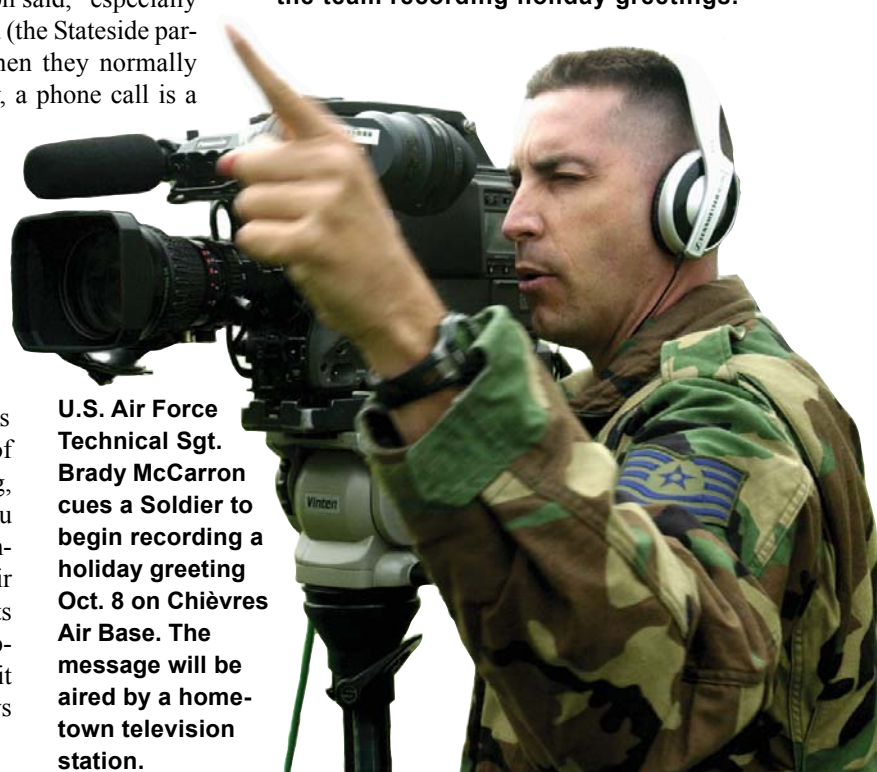
"It's an opportunity for the family members get to see the service members," McCarron said, "especially if they're married with kids, and (the Stateside parents) are able to see them when they normally wouldn't be able to. You know, a phone call is a phone call. But when you see your son and daughter and your grandkids on TV, I think it gives a great feeling."

Hernandez doesn't have the same mileage as his partners, as this is his first trip out of the office, and to Europe.

"I'm loving it," Hernandez said. "It's a lot of traveling. It's very fast-paced. You meet a lot of people and that's the cool thing, and yeah, the single Soldiers, you can actually feel the emotion coming out when they're sending their greeting out. And it kind of gets to you, but it's nice. It makes you appreciate what you have at home and it makes you appreciate what these guys are doing out here."



Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Malec handles paperwork for the team recording holiday greetings.



U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Brady McCarron cues a Soldier to begin recording a holiday greeting Oct. 8 on Chièvres Air Base. The message will be aired by a hometown television station.

Clinic promotes range of women's wellness issues

By Rick Haverinen

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month but the SHAPE Health Care Facility is broadening the spotlight of their educational campaign about early detection of this type of cancer.

"We know there are other women's health issues and it's a good time to bring women together and talk about more than just breast cancer," said Rebecca Campbell, the clinic's community health nurse.

"Obviously women have some situations that are unique, but there's osteoporosis, menopause, when you can have hormonal changes," said Sgt. Steve Boyd, the clinic's NCOIC of the laboratory.

Osteoporosis is a condition associated with aging in which calcium is gradually depleted from bone mass.

"The bones become more porous and that increases your risk of fractures, especially hip fractures, which can be a very serious thing for people," Campbell said. "The older you get, the greater your risk for osteoporosis and your chance is greater if

you're a woman, because of the hormonal changes that women go through at menopause, the bone loss is greater."

Menopause, osteoporosis and breast cancer can all be linked to aging.



Campbell

added. The educational emphasis is detecting any tumor as soon as possible.

"How to complete a self breast exam is really the best tool," Campbell said. "We know that most breast lumps are found at home. And so it's important that women do the monthly self breast exams, so that they're familiar with their own breast and can detect when there is a change."

Campbell conducts classes that help

women learn how to examine themselves and staff physicians can perform an examination in a clinical environment, which is what the American Cancer Society recommends on an annual basis.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer found in women," Boyd said, "and it's the second leading cause of death in women next to lung cancer. Approximately 40,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. The earlier you detect it, the better."

"It's recommended that women have a baseline mammogram at age 40," Campbell said, "unless they have other risk factors, such as an immediate family member that has a history of breast cancer. If they are considered a high risk, then they need to speak with their primary care manager about when they need to have a baseline mammogram done."

Campbell said some American women

who come to Belgium are hesitant about having mammograms performed because the local SHAPE clinic does not have the capability to perform this specialized examination and they have to go to a local Belgian clinic or the military hospital in Landstuhl.

"However, it has been my experience that the mammograms (in the Belgian facilities) are really superior to what we're doing in the United States because they also routinely include an ultrasound examination," Campbell said. "Ultrasound helps them to better define the type of mass, whether it's a cyst or whether it would be a potentially cancerous lesion that they're looking at on the mammogram. Because the films are read immediately, there's a physician that does the ultrasound, and if a biopsy is needed, it can be done right then or it can be scheduled to come back at a different time."

The SHAPE clinic cannot treat breast cancer, but local hospitals offer chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and any surgery that might be recommended.

For more information about breast cancer education or treatment, call Rebecca Campbell at DSN 423-5948 or 065 44 5948.



Boyd

Brussels Community Calendar

ACS - Metro Madness class Oct. 22, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; **Toddler Play Group** every Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room, call 02/717-9684; **National School Lunch program** offers free or reduced priced lunches to eligible families, call 02 717-9698; *for sponsorship training*, call the ACS Relocation Readiness Program Manager, 02 717-9729. **Free computer classes:** PowerPoint and Outlook Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Nov. 15, 1-5 p.m.; Access Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Nov. 16, 1-5 p.m.; Word Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon; Excel Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-noon, NSA Computer Lab, advance sign up required. Info/sign up: 02 717-9783. **NSA Chapel** - Protestant Worship, Sundays, 10:45 a.m.; Gospel Service, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.; Gospel Sunday School, 11 a.m., NSA Conference Room; Sunday School for all ages every Sunday 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Men of the Chapel meet the first Saturday each month, 9 a.m.,

NSA Chapel; Protestant Women of the Chapel study, Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Fellowship Hall; Youth Sunday Oct. 24; Reformation Sunday Oct. 31; Stewardship Sunday Nov. 14; Service Members Prayer Breakfast Nov. 18, Chapel Cafe. Info: 02 717-9708.

Outdoor Recreation Trips - Paris Nov. 6, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; North Sea, Zeebrugge, Blankenberge, Ostend Nov. 13, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; Amsterdam Nov. 20, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children. Info/sign up: Leon Dillien, 474 68 35 44 or 02 717-9775.

Three Star Lounge - New hours: Thursday 7-midnight, Friday 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday 7 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday 7-11 p.m.; Movie Night every Thursday, 7:15 p.m. with free popcorn; Autumn Fest all ages dance Oct. 29, 6-10 p.m.; adult Halloween party and costume contest Oct. 30, 9 p.m.; Right Arm

Night Nov. 5, 5 p.m., free wings while they last; FRG all-ages talent show Nov. 5, 7 p.m.; Karaoke Nov. 6, 9 p.m. Info: 02 717-9732 or 9822.

Multi-Craft Center - Open Wednesday-Thursday 2-9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; art classes through Oct. 30, four 3-hour sessions Fridays and Saturdays; Christmas Market Oct. 28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; framing classes Thursdays, 2-6 p.m., \$30; jewelry making Wednesdays, 6 p.m., \$12; Brussels prints and tapestries for purchase, \$15-\$63; engraving and art restoration services available; basic adult ceramics Saturdays, \$30; children ceramics Saturdays, \$20; children's ceramics birthday parties; wood shop power tools classes by appointment, \$11; motorcycle classes Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., six weeks, \$45; auto craft classes Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., \$25;

winter vehicle checks by appointment, \$30. Info/sign up: 02 717-9629.

Sports and Fitness - Ongoing, self-paced Run For Life program, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; ongoing individual MEDEX training; 5K Turkey Trot, Nov. 20. Info: 02 717-9667.

Child and Youth Services - Parent Advisory Council meeting Oct. 28, 5 p.m., community conference room, NSA Building 4; Teen Dance Nov. 10, 7-10 p.m., Three Star Lounge. Info: 02 717-9665.

Library - Open Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 12-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m.; Story Time for 3-6 year olds Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. Please call first. Info: 02 717-9705.

Consignment Shop - Open Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Info: 02 717-9724.

Installation Volunteer Coordina-

tor - Volunteers needed for NSA Fitness Center reception desk to answer phones or in the office with filing and administrative support, youth volunteers appreciated. If you have time on your hands, want to do something different and help the community at the same time, become a volunteer. Info: 02 717-9679.

The **Brussels American Community Chorus** performs in October and December. Adults and teens of all nationalities are invited to join the fun now. Men are especially needed. The music includes Cole Porter's tunes, Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," medieval Christmas carols, Bach, and more. Rehearsals are every Monday night, even on holidays, 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Carol, 02 757-0621 (ignore change in dial tone) or Lamdm@attglobal.net.

For more information about events happening in the Brussels community, visit www.brussels.army.mil.

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

Army Career and Alumni Program - ACAP, open to all military members, spouses and civilians contemplating leaving government service. The ACAP program includes a pre-separation briefing and a career transition workshop. The workshop is Nov. 2-3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at NSA Brussels DCA conference room, Building 4, and is open to the SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen community. Covered are pre-separation briefing, stress management, career planning, self-assessment, objective setting, job search techniques, resume writing, cover letters, references interviewing, salary negotiation, job offer evaluation. Info: Pina Artale, SHAPE ACS, DSN 423-4904.

BOSS - Halloween Party Oct. 30, 9 p.m., IC Club SHAPE. BOSS meeting Nov. 4 and 18, 1:30 p.m., SHAPE Community Activity Center, conference room. All single service members, geographical bachelors, single parents, etc., are welcome.

Prime Time Lounge - Country Night every second Saturday of the month. Halloween Party Oct. 31, 8:30 p.m.

Army Community Service - *Anger Management Course*, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 9-10 a.m.; *Job Opportunities Workshop*, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, 9 a.m.-noon; *Sponsorship Training*, Nov. 3, 10-11 a.m., ACS conference room; *Smart Move*, Nov. 3, 2-3 p.m., ACS conference room, Building 318. *Please note:* Due to Nov. 11 SHAPE holiday the Newcomers Brief and "Take the Bus" will be Nov. 4. *Cultural Adaptation Trip*, Nov. 13, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at hotel Le Maisières; *"Take the Train,"* Nov. 26, 8:30 a.m., ACS, Building 318; *Rendezvous with French Language*, Nov. 23, 9:30 a.m.-noon at ho-

tel Le Maisières. **New Parent Support Program** at the SHAPE Health Clinic: *Infant Massage Class*, Nov. 4, 18, 25, 11 a.m.-noon; *Play Morning*, Nov. 9, 9-11 a.m.; *New Childbirth Education Class*, Nov. 10, 5-7 p.m.; *Breastfeeding Support Group*, Nov. 16, 11 a.m.-noon. Info: ACS, DSN 423-5777.

Arts and Crafts Center on SHAPE - Has seasonal items for sale. The items range from handmade pottery and figurines to unique American quilts. The Arts and Crafts Center is in Building 209 and open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Arts and Crafts Center offers children's classes during school recess, Nov. 2-5. Info: DSN 423-4680.

MWR Special Events - Holiday Tree Lighting, Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m., beside Chièvres Air Base PX parking lot and Grandma's Attic entrance. Free photos with Santa at the PX entrance; AAFES Holiday Bazaar, Dec. 3-5 at the CAB Community Activity Center.

The SHAPE U.S. Marine Corps element hosts a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the 229th birthday of the Corps Nov. 10, 11 a.m., in the SHAPE PIO auditorium. Info: William Anderson, DSN 423-5267.

The Chièvres Veterinary Clinic - Closed Oct. 18-22 due to mission requirements. We will be open on Oct. 25. Because of the lessened number of operating hours, we would like to encourage anyone with a pet's record here at the clinic to come by on the Oct. 25 to pick it up. November clinic days will be posted at a later date.

The Army Europe **Teen Battle of Bands and Stars of Tomorrow Talent**

Contest is in Hohenfels, Germany Nov. 13. Please contact the Youth Service office at DSN 423-5635 for details. For additional information we posted the flyer in Outlook, Public Folders, All Public Folders, Benelux, Chièvres, 80th ASG, DCA MWR.

The Defense Messaging System class scheduled for Nov. 23 in Chièvres currently has seats available. If you have students that are interested in this class, please direct them to the registration page, <https://www.uatp.hqusareur.army.mil/classes.aspx?ClassID=3639>. No pre-course is required however some basic knowledge of Outlook would be useful. Info: Steve Dalby, Chièvres Training Coordinator, Steve.f.Dalby@us.army.mil

Chièvres Commissary will be open Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Info: DSN 361-5455.

SHAPE Trips and Tours - *Palace of Versailles*, Oct. 23, Euro 23 Entrance to the Palace is not included; *Haunted Paris*, Oct. 30, Euro 25; *Disney Halloween*, Oct. 31, Euro 55 adults, Euro 46 children 3-11 years, Euro 20 children under 3 requiring a seat, child under 2 riding in parents' lap is free; *Thermae 2000*, Nov. 6, Euro 45, extra treatments such as facial, pedicure, manicures must be booked in advance; *Ypres, WWI battlefield tour*, Nov. 11, Euro 25; London, Nov. 13, Euro 30; *Bluewater and Lakeside Malls*, Nov. 20, Euro 30; *Amsterdam*, Nov. 27, Euro 25; *Paris, City of Lights and Cruise on the Seine*, Dec. 4, Euro 33, including boat tour; *Alsace Christmas Markets Weekend*, Dec. 11-12, due to the length of travel and the nature of this trip, we do not recommend it for small children; *Christmas in Switzerland*, Dec. 23-28. Coming soon: Dec. 15,

Valkenburg Grottoes, Christmas Market and Maastricht; Dec. 18, Düsseldorf Christmas Market, Dec. 28, Holiday Disney; Dec. 31, Medieval Dinner. Info: Morale and Welfare Branch, SHAPE Building 307, Community Activity Centre, phone 065 44 3884/8136, fax 065 84 5154, email st&t@benelux.army.mil

The SHAPE Jewish Community announces its fourth quarter Shabbat Service Dec. 3, 8 p.m., in the SHAPE West Chapel. An Oneg Shabbat will follow the service. People who need to arrange access should contact Lisa Arbeiter, the SHAPE Jewish Community Liaison, no later than Nov. 24. Info: Phone, DSN 423-4938, 065 44-4938 or international 32 65 44-4938; FAX, DSN 423-3437, 065 44-3437, or international 32 65 44-3437; email lisa.arbeiter@nacosa.nato.int

SHAPE Officer's Bridge Club (SOBC) is a recognized activity by HSC and is open to military officers, their spouses and local nationals. The club meets in the SHAPE Officer's Club's Namur Room every Tuesday 9:30 a.m.-noon for ladies/spouses and 7:30-11 p.m. for everyone. We play contract bridge and encourage players of all skill levels from those wishing to learn the game to accomplished players to come and join us. We are looking for new members for either session. We are first and foremost a social club which uses bridge as the means to get to know one another. Persons interested in joining us need not worry about bringing a partner as we're confident that we can match each player with someone with whom they'll enjoy the game. Info: Jerry Cummings, DSN 423-4173.

254th BSB Local Calendar

Mothers of Preschoolers - The next meeting is Nov. 5 at Geilenkirchen Chapel, 9-11:30 a.m. MOPS provides an open, caring and accepting atmosphere where women of all faiths can come together and share this important season in life. For mothers of toddlers aged 0-5. Child care is provided. You must sign up. Call 49 2451-63-2229 to register.

Army Community Service - New Parent Education and Support Program, Program

Manager, Michelle Tucker, DSN 360-7335. *Infant Massage Class*, Nov. 2, 16, 10 a.m., ACS Conference Room; *Playgroup for Toddlers*, Nov. 4, 18 and 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Schinnen Sports Center; *OB Orientation/Prenatal Education Class*, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-noon, GK Clinic conference room; *La Leche League, breastfeeding support group*, Nov. 17 and 24, 10 a.m., Schinnen ACS conference room. Info: Schinnen ACS, DSN 360-7500.

Bowling Center - Cosmic Bowling, every Friday, 6 p.m. Info: DSN 360-7207.

BOSS Meetings - Nov. 4, 18, 2 p.m., Treebeek Education Center, Room 114.

Schinnen Fitness and Sport - Taebo and Kickboxing, every Monday and Wednesday, 6-7 p.m.; Step Aerobics, every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m.; Body Balance, Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.

Indoor Swimming Pool - Open Tuesday to Friday, 4-7 p.m. and

Saturday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Enjoy the indoor pool or take advantage of instructional classes. Catered parties or special events are available for a nominal fee.

Schinnen/JFC Brunssum Youth Center (IYS) - Activities during the November school break: Nov. 16, movie, cost Euro 5, depart 1:30 p.m., return 6 p.m.; Nov. 17, lunch trip and sports at AFNorth fields, bring your own money, depart 1 p.m., return 5 p.m.; Nov. 18, bowling

at Schinnen Bowling Center, cost \$1 for shoes and \$1 per game, depart 1:30 p.m., return 4:30 p.m.; Nov. 19, swimming, cost Euro 20, depart 9 a.m., return 6 p.m. Sign up NLT Nov. 11 at Youth Services (IYS,) JFC Brunssum Building H-603. Youth must be members of Youth Services to participate Info: Frank Lupacchino, DSN 364-3033, or 045 526-3033.

AFNorth Veterinary clinic - Open Oct. 26 for clinics and to pick up pet records.

SHAPE Spartans return from Bison hunt



SHAPE Spartans #10, Marvin Coombs, advances the ball in a game played Sept. 25 against arch-rival Bitburg, as #20, Richard Rendon, plows a path through defenders.

By Jerry Cummings

One of the biggest questions in every football coach's mind is the one which asks who on the team will respond to adversity. On a perfect football afternoon Oct. 9 at the Mannheim Bison's home field, that question was going to be answered as the SHAPE Spartans set out to see if they or adversity would rule the day.

The Spartans lost the coin toss and kicked to the Bison. Mannheim revealed their game plan in their first series. They

were going to try and replicate ISB's formula and attempted to burn the Spartans with a pass. What the Bison apparently failed to note was the presence of #2, Joe Puttman, with the Golden Shoes, who played the pattern to perfection and the Bison were faced with a second and 10. The defensive line and linebacking corps led by senior defensive end Matt Anderson and senior middle linebacker Rich Rendon smothered the Bison's next two attempts and faced with a fourth and 16, they punted.

The Spartan offense took to the field intent on capitalizing on excellent field position and wasted no time in moving the 52 yards between them and the Mother Lode. Line coach Brian McGoldrick had his charges prepared to dominate in the trenches and they gave him what he asked. In seven offensive plays, highlighted by the lightening speed of halfback Danny Camarena and the punishing running of fullback Rich Rendon, the Spartans were hitting on all cylinders and up six... soon to be seven after the first of four successful extra point boots by left-foot kicker Marvin Coombs.

The remainder of the first half was pretty much a repeat of the opening series, with the Spartan defense allowing no quarter and the offense showing no mercy. The key indication of the Bison's frustration was exhibited during their second defensive series when their head coach turned his attention to the Spartan's (un)official camera crew and 'chased' them away from his sidelines instead of focusing on how to shut down Sean Corcoran and the Spartan juggernaut. Whilst the camera crew was utmost in coach's mind, SHAPE scored on three of their next four pre-half time possessions with a blend of power running by junior halfback Steven Small and elusive running the tandem of Camarena and freshman phenom, Brian DesRoches. The Spartan passing game played a large

role in keeping the Bison defense on their heels as Corcoran hooked up with Puttman during several drives and Zack Rabiego for the touchdown which gave the Spartans a 27-0 halftime lead.

Coaches Kapp and defensive coordinator Mike Dillon decided to give the under-studies a shot while the game was still undecided and began the third quarter with much of the first team on the bench. That decision was useful because it gave the coaches and the players a good look at what portions of their games they will need to tweak in the coming week's practices. There were positive signs on both sides of the ball the call, though play in the period didn't affect the score. The Spartan's first team returned to the field in the fourth quarter and added nine points while the defense continued to deny the Bison any ground for a final 36-0 Spartan victory and a season 3-1 record.

The only downside to the Spartan's day was the JV's first season loss. The JV came up a bit short losing to Mannheim JV 7-6. However, the game was in many ways highly successful for coach Craig Clapperton's charges because his team had been decimated by the movement of many players to the varsity squad. Team coherence developed on the practice field, was impacted due to the loss of key players. Nonetheless, they, like their varsity teammates, stared adversity in the eye and came away undaunted. Denied victory on the scoreboard they were not denied the satisfaction of having fought and hard and well.

Spartan spirit reigns.

Civilian Human Resource Management Agency expands Web services

The "Civilian Human Resource Management Agency web site" located at www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil will be accessible through two new locations.

The U.S. Army Europe gateway to access information for civilian personnel, living and working overseas, local courses offered for employee training and development, and management tools will be at www.chra.eur.army.mil.

Information on Appropriated Funds, Non-Appropriated Funds and Local National Civilian personnel policies, procedures and programs, such as contingency guidance, pay information, awards, and recruitment and retention incentives, will be located at www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/cpd. Users will be able to access the new Civilian Personnel Directorate (CPD) site from the CHRA site.

As of October 2003, CHRMA transitioned to a new organizational structure, the U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency. Formerly the U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency, it officially became a Field Operating Agency of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, Department of the Army headquarters, with the CHRA

headquarters in Aberdeen, Md.

All Civilian Personnel Operations Centers and Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers located in CONUS and OCONUS were joined into the new structure. The Civilian Personnel Directorate did not realign under CHRA. As

the office responsible for providing MACOM-level guidance on programs and policy on U.S. and Local national civilian personnel, CPD remained as part of the HQ USAREUR, G1.

For information call Trina Schroeder, 49 621 487-2537.

CFCO begins in overseas areas

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign Overseas is now underway until Dec. 3, offering personnel the opportunity to support a wide range of charitable and humanitarian organizations with their donations.

"Our goal is to give every Army in Europe Soldier and civilian employee an opportunity to contribute," stated Donald Wade, the IMA-E CFC project manager. "CFC is an important program because it benefits so many people around the world."

The Army in Europe had a successful year in 2003, raising \$2.3 million. The 2003 total showed people's spirit of generosity with a 22 percent increase in the amount of the average individual's contribution, despite

the absence of Soldiers on deployments and a decrease of some \$500,000 from the 2002 total.

Training for a network of project officers in the communities and tactical units was conducted in August and September to give them the tools they need to conduct the campaign.

"This year's campaign will again be a team effort to insure our personnel know about the program and have the opportunity to participate," Wade noted. "We look forward to continued strong support."

For more information contact Staff Sgt. Edward Hoffman, 80th ASG personnel sergeant, DSN 361-5395, 32 68 275395 or edward.hoffman@benelux.army.mil



Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Oct. 25	Nov. 5	Nov. 22	Dec. 3	Jan. 3	Jan. 14	Jan. 31	Feb. 11
Nov. 8	Nov. 19	Dec. 6	Dec. 17	Jan. 14	Jan. 28	Feb. 14	Feb. 25

About Us



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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. To save space, we cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor*.

Advertising

- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Benelux Meteor* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

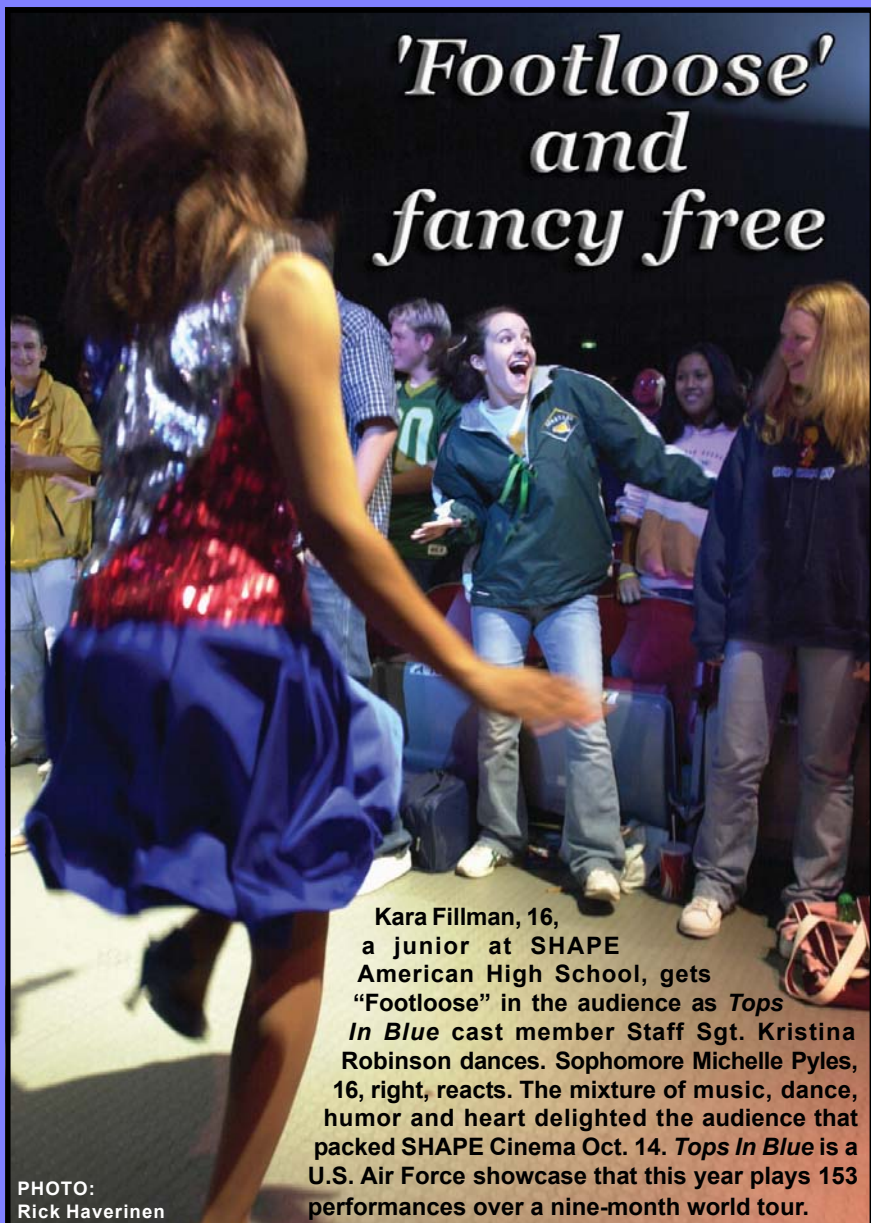
- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline
Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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'Footloose' and fancy free



Kara Fillman, 16, a junior at SHAPE American High School, gets "Footloose" in the audience as *Tops In Blue* cast member Staff Sgt. Kristina Robinson dances. Sophomore Michelle Pyles, 16, right, reacts. The mixture of music, dance, humor and heart delighted the audience that packed SHAPE Cinema Oct. 14. *Tops In Blue* is a U.S. Air Force showcase that this year plays 153 performances over a nine-month world tour.

PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

SNAPSHOTS from Page 1

Father influenced Navy career

"Both my parents are from Honduras," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Carin Sosa of the SHAPE U.S. Navy Element.



Sosa

"They met in New Orleans. That's where I was born in 1970 and where I went to grade school. I was one of a few Hispanic kids in that school. I was raised speaking Spanish in the household. You couldn't even speak English at the house. It was just natural to speak Spanish. And I'm very fortunate that I hold onto that heritage and not forgotten how to speak it."

Sosa said his teachers probably worked a little harder to get him started in English.

"When you're a kid, I think you pick up things much quicker," Sosa said. "You don't realize it, but by the time I was in second or third grade it was like, 'Wow, I'm getting good at English.'"

Sosa said his parents moved to the U.S. because of greater work opportunity. It was his father's influence that got Sosa interested in the Navy.

"My father went to work for the merchant marines," Sosa said, "and he did that for the rest of his career. He was in the merchant marines about 35 years as an electrical engineer. And I just remembered the times that we had to depart him and he would go on the (gangway) on the ship I wanted to go on the ship with him too."

Sosa said the Navy has been a great experience with a lot of opportunities.

"You've just got to take it," Sosa said. "They're just there for you. It's unlimited."

U.S. citizenship important goal

"I came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic," said Sgt. Ramon Alcantara, 80th Area Support Group, "and moved to the United States in 1989."

Alcantara graduated from Lawrence, Mass. High School as a JROTC cadet commander and joined the Army about a year later.

"When I came into the Army the first thing my recruiter told me was, 'If you want to make the Army a career, you have to be able to apply for citizenship before you finish your first eight years of the military so you can continue to 20 years.' If you don't have U.S. citizenship to begin with, the Army does allow you to come in and serve the United States, no matter where you're from, for up to eight years."

Alcantara became a U.S. citizen last year. He said becoming a U.S. citizen is a goal for many immigrants whether in the military or not.

Like many Hispanic immigrants in the United States, Alcantara learned English in public schools.

"My first stop when I came into the U.S. was the Virgin Islands," Alcantara said. "I lived there for two years where I actually learned how to speak English. It was kind of a challenge, but I was able to pick up the language fairly easy. So because of that I have no problems. I think it was a good thing. I guess God helped me out and pushed me along and here I am today."



Alcantara

Cooking always shared in family

"I always wanted to be a chef, so cooking is my only passion," said Pvt. Salina Sisneros, a cook at SHAPE U.S. Dining Facility.

"I grew up in California," Sisneros said. "Where I lived it was mainly Mexicans and Hispanics. Here as far as Hispanics go, there are more Puerto Ricans than there are Mexicans. But it's not too different. Everybody from what I see, is treated the same."

Sisneros comes by her love of cooking because of the women in her family.

"I learned from my mother, my grandmother and my great grandmother," Sisneros said. "They're all around. Hispanic families tend to stick together and my family is very close. So we all cook together every day. I learned their recipes and their little tricks here and there. So that's how I learned how to cook."

Sisneros said her mother is "really good at making green chili enchiladas, not red chili, but green chili enchiladas. My grandmother is famous for two things, making menudo, which is a Mexican soup, and tamales. My great-grandmother makes the same things, menudo, mole, and sweet and meat tamales."

Sisneros put her inside track for Mexican cuisine to work at a Sept. 28 Hispanic-themed lunch at the SHAPE U.S. Dining Facility.

"I was able to give my input on how things could be cooked better or what you could do to improve the meal," Sisneros said. "I made the enchiladas. I was able to do what I knew how to do. So it was kind of nice not to have to use a (stock) recipe card. But I did have to come up with the recipe to show what was needed and how much was needed because you still have to follow your guidelines. But it was a family recipe that I did use. So everybody enjoyed the meal. The food was all gone and it was a lot of fun. We had music playing and we had ornaments around. It was really nice. It meant a lot to me because I got to share what I know best, and I know best how to make Mexican food. So being able to do that, and seeing people actually enjoying it, was really good. I was happy. I was really proud of what we all did together, all of us back there in the kitchen cooking. So we all pulled through together to make this really good meal. And it came out really good and everybody enjoyed it."

Sisneros is a family trailblazer. A couple relatives were in the U.S. Marine Corps, but Sisneros is the first woman in her family to enlist in the U.S. military service.



Pvt. Salina Sisneros loves to cook, so she has the right job at SHAPE Dining Facility.

Polishing skills before reaching retirement years

By Sylvia Bowron
The Netherlands Heraut

The military offers a lot of opportunities to its members, but for Master Sgt. Serjio Pruneda, a senior personnel specialist for Headquarters, Combat Equipment Group, Europe, the Army offered prospects he never expected.

He graduated from Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, Wash. in 1991. Then Pruneda, a Mexican-American proud of his heritage, decided to join the Army and serve his country. He saw the Army as a way to travel and acquire training and education.

"The Army is a unique organization," said the 13-year Army veteran. "It gives everyone the same opportunities. I don't feel that being Hispanic has given me an edge over anyone else, nor have my experiences been affected by my background," he said.

He believes his job working in personnel and at CEG-E is important. "I look out for soldiers, both officer and enlisted," Pruneda said. "I take care of all their administrative issues such as personal awards, their evaluations, professional career development, just about anything to do with their career."

Of his various active duty assignments, Pruneda enjoyed the last five years at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was a member of the Army's Golden Knights. "I was a demonstration parachutist and I really miss it," Pruneda said. While stationed in the Netherlands, he travels to Spa, Belgium to maintain his parachuting skills.

Pruneda finds time to continue his education through a Troy State University online program and is proud to say he is just seven courses away from completing a bachelor's degree in resource management. He is married and has three children.

"As an Hispanic, I believe my time spent in the Army is beneficial because I gained knowledge that will help me compete with others after I retire and pursue a second career," Pruneda said.

Pruneda believes that potential employers will look more favorably not only on him, but other Soldiers because of skills and leadership abilities learned in the Army.



Pruneda



Elsa Rodriguez-Roth, left, and Myrna Medina serve home-cooked treats to eager clientele at a Hispanic food tasting Oct. 5 at the Chièvres Air Base PX.